



2006 Fiscal Report

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

"We have designed this program to be as responsive to the needs of Colorado's land users as possible by permitting grazing that maintains viability of the grassland, as well as haying, mowing, and harvesting for seed production which is subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season."

NRCS Program Manager

 Natural Resources
Conservation Service
HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND
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2006 Activities and Funding

of App. Received.....5

of App. Contracted.....5

\$ Approved.....\$1,144,795

*Acres under Contract.....11,792

**Applications, funds, and acres contracted were taken from the existing FY05 waiting list. No new applications were received in FY06.*

The Program

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) helps landowners and operators voluntarily protect and restore grasslands, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands. The GRP helps prevent conversion of grazing lands to cropland, development, or other uses.

The GRP program priorities include protection from threat of conversion, maintaining working agricultural lands and biodiversity.

Agreements:

- ◆ 10-, 15-, 20-, and 30-year rental agreements administered by the Farm Service Agency will provide annual payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land.

Restoration agreements:

- ◆ Will be incorporated within the rental agreement or easement project if restoration is deemed necessary by NRCS.

All Enrollment Options Permit:

- ◆ Common grazing practices that maintain the viability of the grassland;
- ◆ Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production, subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season, as determined by NRCS; and
- ◆ Fire rehabilitation and the construction of fire breaks and fences.

The Benefits

Protecting and restoring grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and improves environmental quality.

Enrollment Options

The GRP program offers several enrollment options:

Easements:

- ◆ Permanent conservation easements; payment based on appraised fair market value of the easement.
- ◆ 30-Year easements; payment based on 30 percent of the full fair market value of the easement.